PROCEEDINGS
of
THE TRAVANCORE SRI MULAM ASSEMBLY.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

FIRST ASSEMBLY.

FOURTH SESSION.

Friday, the 25th January 1935/12th Makaram 1110.

The Assembly met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven of the clock, the President Presiding.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Aided Vernacular Schools.

93. *MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of Vernacular Schools in receipt of grant-in-aid in Karkatakam 1109;

(*b*) the number of schools referred to in part (*a*) for which no grant has been paid in Chingam, Kanni or Tulam owing to the delay in renewing grant memos; and

(*c*) the number of cases in part (*b*) in which this delay is due to the failure of the management in applying for renewal of grant memos in time?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Pubic Instruction*): (*a*) 2,257.

(*b*) The exact number is not readily available, but it must have been limited.

(*c*) Nil.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Maveikara*): With reference to answer to part (*b*), may I know from the member whether there is any list of schools kept in the Director's office from which the required information could be gathered?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There is no list in the Director's office to show on what particular date a particular Vernacular School gets the grant memo.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Financial Assistant to the Director keeps a list of schools for which grant has been paid during a month?

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MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): We have got a list of schools in my office showing which schools receive grant-in-aid. We do not keep the details as to the day or date on which the grant memos have been issued by the Divisional Inspectors.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I want to know the number of schools for which grant has not been paid actually in Chingam, Kanni and Thulam owing to the delay in renewing grant memos. My question is how many schools there are which have not received any grant during Chingam, Kanni and Thulam?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The answer given to the question, I admit, is not an exact answer, but I think the number of such schools must be limited. The records which would show when the grant memos are issued are kept in the Divisional Inspector's office and not in my office.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): My question is not with regard to the date of issue of the grant memos. But it is with respect to the number of schools that have not been paid grants. The Director says that it must have been limited. May I know the basis upon which that statement is made?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): On this basis, namely, that I get reports from the Divisional Inspectors from time to time during the year as to how they are proceeding with re-issue of the grant memos.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Do the Divisional Inspectors report as to the number of schools to which the grant memos have not been renewed?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): They do in cases where the grant memos are not going to be renewed.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know from the member whether he can give the approximate number of schools which have not received the renewing grant memos?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I can if the member will say whether he refers to schools refused aid or to schools which were eventually aided.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the number of Vernacular Schools to which there was delay in the issue of renewing memos?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): There was delay in all the Vernacular Schools this year.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether there is an officer in the Director's office who is in charge of receipt of grant memos?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I have not finished, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Well, finish it soon.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): The Director was stating that in the beginning of the year all the schools were not in receipt of grant-in-aid memos. I wish to know how many schools there were which had not received grant memos on the 30th of Chingam.

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid I cannot tell that now. I do not wish to conceal anything with regard to the information sought for by the member. The position is this. This year is the first time that all the Vernacular Schools had their grants-in-aid renewed from the same day, viz., from the beginning of the year. The re-issue of all memos simultaneously took time and the Account Office also instructed the Director to give new numbers to all schools and hence the re-numbering of the schools had to be done and consequently there happened to be some delay.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. I heard the member to say that he did not wish to conceal anything. Is it open to a member to say that he does not want to conceal anything? Considering the proceedings of the House, I wish that statement may be withdrawn. It may be a reflection upon the member speaking and a reflection upon the other members also. So I wish a ruling.

PRESIDENT: I do not quite see any point of order at all.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): I will explain myself. I heard the member to say "I do not wish to conceal anything." That is a matter in which one would congratulate the official member, because, when a Government member says that he does not wish to conceal anything, by implication it means there is a suggestion as to concealment. It may affect the prestige of the Government member.

PRESIDENT: I do not think what is said meant more than this. He was convincing the Honourable member who was putting supplementary questions to take it from him that all the information at his disposal are placed before the House. That is all, I think, he has said.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): It has been brought tothe notice of the Director that there was much delay in the issue of grant memos and disbursement of grants in regard to a number of schools. May I know from the Director whether he has taken any step to see that any such delay on the part of the Inspectorate does not cause any prejudice to the grant-in-aid schools in future?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The delay was due to the two special circumstances that I have just now told the member about. I have however issued a circular to see that the work of taking up the reconsideration of grant memos be taken up in future years earlier and to see that all memos are issued within the first two months. I may also inform the member that the grant memos used to be issued irrespective of the budget grant. What we are now doing is to issue memos only after receipt of budget sanction. On that account also there will always be a small delay.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether it is the Director of Public Instruction or the Divisional Inspectors that are empowered generally to sanction grant-in-aid?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): The Divisional Inspectors.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member when this interpellation was sent to the member, whether, he took care to call for the exact number required in the interpellation from the Inspectors?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): No, I did not, because, if I had called for it, I might not have been able to answer the question during this session. It must go not only to the Divisional Inspectors but also to the Assistant Inspectors, which means delay.

English Middle School at Nedumangad.

94. ✻MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many English Schools there are in the Nedumangad taluk;

(*b*) how long it is since the English Middle School was started at Nedumangad;

(*c*) whether the people of the taluk have not given a *pucca* building and a compound for starting the existing English Middle School; and

(*d*) whether the Government, when they started the school, have not promised to raise the Middle School to a High School as early as possible?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) One.

(*b*) 13 years and 8 months.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): With reference to answer to part (*d*), may I know from the member whether there were constant demands from the public that the Middle School at Nedumangad should be raised to a High School?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know whether there were constant demands, but there have been demands.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether the representatives of the taluk have demanded the raising of the Middle School to a High School in successive sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I think so.

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